

Maritime Administration, DOT

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the same; that I will comply with all the regulations of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God."

(g) *Birth Certificate.* Each candidate shall present a certificate of birth authenticated by an authorized official.

§ 310.58 Service obligation for students enrolled after April 1, 1982.

(a) *Form of service obligation contract.* The service obligation contract shall obligate each midshipman who is a citizen and who enters the Academy after April 1, 1982, to:

(1) Complete the course of instruction at the Academy, unless sooner separated by the Academy;

(2) Fulfill the requirements for a license as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States on or before the date of graduation from the Academy;

(3) Maintain a license as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States for at least six (6) years following the date of graduation from the Academy;

(4) Apply for an appointment as, accept any tendered appointment as and serve as a commissioned officer in the USNR (including the Merchant Marine Reserve, USNR), the United States Coast Guard Reserve, or any other Reserve component of an armed force of the United States for at least six (6) years following the date of graduation from the Academy;

(5) Serve the foreign and domestic commerce and the national defense of the United States for at least five (5) years following the date of graduation from the Academy:

(i) As a merchant marine officer serving on vessels documented under the laws of the United States or on vessels owned and operated by the United States or by any State or territory of the United States;

(ii) As an employee in a United States maritime-related industry, profession or marine science (as determined by the Administrator), if the Administrator determines that service under paragraph (a)(5)(i) of this section is not available;

(iii) As a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or NOAA; or

(iv) By combining the services specified in paragraphs (a)(5) (i), (ii) and (iii) of this section; and,

(6) Submit periodic reports to the Administration to establish compliance with all the terms of the contract.

(b) *Service as a merchant marine officer.* For purposes of the service obligation, a satisfactory year of service on vessels as a merchant marine officer shall be the lesser of—

(1) 150 days; or

(2) The number of days that is at least equal to the median number of days of seafaring employment under articles achieved by deck or engine officers in the most recent calendar year for which statistics are available.

(c) *Marine-related employment.* (1) Graduates who do not meet the sea service requirement in paragraph (b) of this section and who claim employment in a United States maritime-related industry, profession or marine science as meeting all or part of the service obligation under paragraph (a)(5) of this section and the serve obligation contract shall submit evidence to the Administration that they have conscientiously sought employment as a merchant marine officer, and that such employment is not available. Such evidence submitted, and other information available to the Administration, shall be considered in any finding. In view of current and projected employment opportunities afloat, the Administrator will grant the shoreside employment option infrequently and only on the basis of comprehensive evidence.

(2) The Administrator may consider positions of operational, management or administrative responsibility, including, but not limited to, the following marine-related categories, to be under the provisions of § 310.58(a)(5)(ii) of this subpart and the service obligation contract: Civilian employment in Federal and State agencies related to maritime affairs; steamship companies; stevedoring companies; vessel chartering and operations; cargo terminal operations; naval architecture; shipbuilding and repair; municipal and

State port authorities; and port development, marine engineering, and tug and barge companies.

(d) *Reporting requirements.* (1) Each graduate must submit an employment report form 13 months following his or her graduation and each succeeding 12 months for a total of five consecutive years to: Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Example 1: Midshipman graduates on June 30, 2001. His first reporting date is July 1, 2002 and thereafter for 5 consecutive years.

Example 2: Midshipman has a deferred graduation on November 30, 2001. His first reporting date is December 1, 2002 and thereafter for 5 consecutive years.

(2) The Maritime Administration will provide reporting forms. However, non-receipt of such form will not exempt a graduate from submitting employment information as required by this paragraph. The reporting form has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (2133–0509).

(e) *Breach of contract.* (1) If the Administration determines that any individual who has attended the Academy for not less than 2 years has failed to complete the course of instruction at the Academy, the Secretary of the Navy may order that individual to active duty in the U.S. Navy, at a rating determined by the U.S. Navy, to serve for a period of time not to exceed 2 years. The Administration shall submit the list of those who have breached their service obligation contract to the Chief of Naval Education and Training, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida 32508.

(2) If the Administration determines that a graduate of the Academy has broken his or her agreement under paragraphs (a)(2) through (6) of this section and the service obligation contract, such individual may be ordered to active duty to serve a period of time not less than three (3) years and not more than the unexpired portion of the service required under said subparagraph (5) and the contract. The Administrator, in consultation with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard, shall determine in which service the graduate shall serve and the pe-

riod of time. The branch of service in which the individual serves shall determine the rank or rating of the individual. If the Secretary of Defense is unable or unwilling to order an individual to active duty, the Secretary of Transportation may recover from the individual the cost of education provided by the Federal Government by requesting the Attorney General to begin court proceedings to recover the costs of that education.

(f) *Waivers.* The Administrator shall have the discretion to grant waivers of the service obligation contract in cases where there would be undue hardship or impossibility of performance due to accident, illness or other justifiable reason. Applications for waivers shall be submitted to the Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

(g) *Deferments.* In exceptional cases, the Administration may grant a deferment of all or part of the agreement under paragraph (a)(5) of this section and the service obligation contract, for a period not to exceed 2 years, only for graduates considered to have superior academic and conduct records while at the Academy and only for the purpose of entering a marine or maritime-related graduate course of study approved by the Administrator; *Provided,* That any deferment of service as a commissioned officer under paragraph (a)(5)(iii) of this section and the service obligation contract shall be subject to the sole approval of the Secretary of the department which has jurisdiction over such service (including the Secretary of the department in which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Commerce with respect to NOAA). A graduate shall make application for such deferment through the Superintendent of the Academy, who shall forward each application, together with the Superintendent's recommendation for approval or disapproval and an evaluation of the applicant's academic and conduct records, to the Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW,

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Washington, DC 20590 for appropriate action.

(h) *Determination of compliance with service obligation contract; deferment; waiver; and appeal procedures.* (1) A designated official of the Administration shall:

(i) Determine whether a student or graduate has breached his or her service obligation contract;

(ii) Grant or deny a deferment of the service obligation, except for obligations otherwise a part of the graduate's commissioned officer status; and,

(iii) Grant or deny a waiver of the requirements of the service obligation contract in cases of undue hardship or impossibility of performance due to accident, illness or other justifiable reason.

(2)(i) If a student or graduate disagrees with the decision of the designated official, the student or graduate may appeal that decision to the Maritime Administrator. The appeal will set forth all the legal and factual grounds on which the student or graduate bases the appeal. Any grounds not set forth in the appeal are waived.

(ii) Appeals must be filed with the Maritime Administrator within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt by such student or graduate of the written decision of the designated official. Appeals must be filed at the Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, 400 7th St. SW., Washington, DC 20590. Each decision will include a notice of appeal rights.

(iii) A decision is deemed to be received by a student or graduate five (5) working days after the date it is mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the address for such student or graduate listed with the Office of Maritime Labor, Training, and Safety. It is the responsibility of such student or graduate to ensure that their current mailing address is on file with the Office of Maritime Labor, Training, and Safety, Room 7302, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590.

(iv) If the appeal is sent by conventional mail (through the United States Postal Service), the date of filing is determined by the postmark date. If no legible postmark date appears on the mailing, the appeal is deemed to be filed five (5) working days before the

date of its receipt in the Office of the Secretary. If delivered by other than the United States Postal Service, an appeal is filed with the Maritime Administrator on the date it is physically delivered to the Office of the Secretary at the address referenced in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section. The date of filing by commercial delivery (not United States Postal Service) is the date it is received at the address for the Office of the Secretary set forth in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section. Appeals may not be submitted by facsimile or by electronic mail. Requests for extension of the time to file an appeal may be submitted by facsimile or electronic mail to the Office of the Secretary. Requests for extension of time do not stop or toll the running of the time for filing an appeal. Appeals may only be filed after the deadline if the Maritime Administrator or his designee, in their sole discretion, grants an extension.

(v) In computing the number of days, the first day counted is the day after the event from which the time period begins to run. If the date that ordinarily would be the last day for filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the filing period will include the first workday after that date.

Example to paragraph (b)(10)(v): If a graduate receives a decision on July 1, the 30-day period for filing an appeal starts to run on July 2. The appeal would ordinarily be timely only if postmarked on or physically delivered by July 31. If July 31 is a Saturday, however, the last day for obtaining a postmark by mailing or physical delivery would be Monday, August 2.

(3) The Maritime Administrator will issue a written decision for each timely appeal. This decision constitutes final agency action.

(4) If a student or graduate fails to appeal within the time set forth in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, the decision of the designated official will be final and constitute final agency action.

[47 FR 21812, May 20, 1982, as amended at 60 FR 44438, Aug. 28, 1995; 65 FR 39558, June 27, 2000; 66 FR 36177, July 11, 2001]

§ 310.59 Courses of instruction.

(a) *At Academy.* Three major curriculums are offered: Nautical Science, for